

More TROUTVILLE tidbits!

“HOPE BUILDERS”

A Project of Troutville Baptist Church

By Shirley Mullins, Director

Hope Builders (Christian Women's Job Corp) is a ministry of the Baptist Women's Missionary Union, the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) of Virginia, the Roanoke Valley WMU and Troutville Baptist Church.

Our Mission Statement: CWJC exists to provide a Christian context in which women in need are equipped for life and employment, and a mission context in which women help women. Hope Builders ministers to the whole person. In order to carry out God's command to love Him with all our hearts, our hearts must indeed be whole. Hope Builders ministers holistically - engaging the heart, the mind, the soul and the body on a path to health and wholeness. Our ministry consists of Bible Study (heart), mentor relationships (soul), free job skills classes (mind), and health and nutrition tips (body).

This program is open to women of all ages and is FREE OF CHARGE. Registration will be held on February 23rd, 4:00pm-5:30pm, at Troutville Baptist Church. Computer classes will begin on February 28th, 5:30pm-7:00p.m, and will be headed by Paul Murphy from the Bank of Botetourt. Regular classes will begin on March 1st, 4:00pm-8:00pm.

Child care is available and a light supper will be provided for all who attend. For information, call Shirley Mullins at 354-1471.

Irene Dillard's "A.R.K. House"

By Rev. Bill Orde

A few years ago the pastor of Troutville Baptist Church (TBC), Rev. Carol Johnston, shared a vision with the congregation regarding establishing a food pantry in the Troutville area. After several years of work and much answered prayer, TBC was finally able to dedicate their food pantry in November 2010.

Irene Dillard's "A.R.K. House" officially opened for business the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The pantry is named in honor of Irene Dillard, the former owner of the little white house behind the church in which the pantry resides. Irene was a kind and generous lady who had a heart for God and His mission to help the needy, so the church felt this was a perfect way to honor her memory and generosity. The term "A.R.K." stands for "Acts of Random Kindness," which is the goal behind the entire project: To serve God by showing the members of the local community acts of random kindness any way they can, not just with food. Troutville Baptist has always had a heart for missions as is evident by their sending out various mission teams across the state, country and even the world. Now, they're going to serve God in the mission field right in their own backyard and in their own community!

After getting the house ready for business with a fresh coat of paint, a few updates here and there, and building some shelving, the next challenge was to stock the pantry. This began with the members bringing in food for the pantry, which they now do as a matter of routine whenever they have communion. While the folks of TBC have been very generous, there still remained a need for food before the pantry could be opened. To meet the need, the "Holy Thunder" motorcycle club of TBC (a group of folks from TBC that get together to ride their motorcycles from time to time and enjoy some Christian fellowship) hosted a motorcycle rally in October -organized and supported by the "Blue Ridge Christian Riders" (BRCR). The entry fee for the rally was food for the pantry. The riders enjoyed a nice, three-hour ride through the countryside, and were treated to a picnic-type lunch when they returned.

After all the fine work on the house by the members of the church and a motorcycle rally hosted by the motorcycle club, the pantry was finally ready to go. A small dedication service was held after church, and the pantry opened the following Sunday. The members working in the pantry the first day were greeted with people waiting when they arrived, and they continue to meet the needs of those who come to their attention. The pantry will have access to various programs with which to obtain food ranging from a true, no cost or obligation food pantry for those in desperate need of food, to being a host church for *Angel Food Ministries* - a program wherein anyone, regardless of income or status, can purchase low-cost, restaurant-quality food on a monthly basis. They are also working to become an approved distribution point for *FEEDING AMERICA Southwest Virginia*. With these three programs in operation, TBC will be able to provide a food service program to all - from those having an urgent need to those simply wanting to stretch their food dollars. In addition to the food pantry programs, the prayer is for the "A.R.K. House" to eventually establish a clothing closet as well.

Working with other churches in the area, as well as various social service agencies such as the Buchanan Resource Center, and others via referrals and calls, will make these services and programs available to all in the community depending on the program they're interested in, their individual situation and their need.

The TBC food pantry crew is still working out the logistics of exactly how and when it will operate. At this point, beginning in February 2011, TBC will begin taking *Angel Food Ministries* orders and providing food from the food pantry every Wednesday night from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the church (located on Lee Hwy in Troutville). Wednesday nights were selected with the hopes that folks will stay to participate in the Wednesday night bible studies and youth activities - an opportunity to not only provide food for the body, but also food for the soul. In addition, the pantry will be open one Saturday morning per month, 10:00am-12:00 noon, for walk-ins and to distribute the *Angel Food Ministries* orders (see the *Angel Food Ministries* website and watch TBC's sign for information on dates). The pantry will also be open other times as needed and by appointment.

For more information or to make arrangements to meet someone at the A.R.K. House, please contact either Susan Orde at 540/275-2326 or Ed Miller at 540/798-0016. For questions pertaining to *Angel Food Ministries*, please call Tracy Davis at 540/588-3040 or go to their web site at www.angelfoodministries.com. You can also leave a message on the phone at the church by calling 540/992-1026; just remember to leave a name and number where you can be reached.